

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10
EUR-12 NEA-10 L-03 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10
INT-05 LAB-04 NSAE-00 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15
STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-11
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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6551

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 03138

PASS ELECTRONICALLY AGRICULTURE FOR ASST SEC HATHAWAY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD EAGR OCON

SUBJECT: MEETING OF FOUR MAJOR WHEAT EXPORTERS

1. DELEGATION HEADS OF CANADA, AUSTRALIA, ARGENTINA AND US MET FEB 24 AT CANADIAN MISSION TO DISCUSS SCENARIO FOR WHEAT NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE. CONSENSUS OF OTHER THREE EXPORTERS WAS THAT NECESSARY POLITICAL DECISIONS ON ECONOMIC PROVISIONS OF NEW AGREEMENT NEEDED AMONG KEY COUNTRIES (PARTICULARLY FOUR EXPORTERS AND EC) BY END OF SECOND WEEK IN MARCH IF NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE TO REACH SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION. CONSENSUS WAS THAT EC TACTICS ARE FOR US TO MODIFY ITS POSITION ON MIN/MAX PRICES AND ON ALL GRAINS AGREEMENT OR CONFERENCE WILL NOT REACH CONCLUSION. EXPORTER REPRESENTATIVES FELT EC SHOULD INSTEAD BE FACED WITH POLITICAL DECISION AS TO WHETHER TO MODIFY ITS POSITION OR POSSIBLY HAVE NEW AGREEMENT CONCLUDED WITHOUT EC PARTICIPATION. THROUGHOUT MEETING GENERAL TONE ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO CANADA AND ARGENTINA WAS ONE OF WORRY ABOUT FIRMNESS OF US POSITION. ANTICIPATION WAS THAT GUNDELACH
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IN MARCH 8 MEETING WITH BERGLAND WOULD SEEK SOME MODIFICATION OF US STANCE. CANADA PARTICULARLY FELT THAT MINISTERIAL CONTACT BETWEEN US AND CANADA WOULD BE HELPFUL PRIOR TO THIS MEETING. CANADA ALSO DID NOT WISH TO RULE OUT POSSIBLE NEED FOR MINISTERIAL MEETING IN GENEVA TOWARD MIDDLE OF MARCH. AT US SUGGESTION, OVERALL SCENARIO FOR CONFERENCE WILL BE DISCUSSED FURTHER AMONG

FOUR EXPORTERS DURING WEEK OF FEB 27.

2. IN INTERIM EXPORTERS AGREED THAT AFTER CONCLUSION OF INITIAL REVIEW OF DRAFT TEXT WHEAT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE SHOULD MEET AT TECHNICAL LEVEL TO BE FOLLOWED BY REGULAR MEETING OF COMMITTEE AT 11:00. EC WILL PRESUMABLY INSIST ON SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS FOR COARSE GRAINS FOR WHATEVER IS ESTABLISHED FOR WHEAT. CHAIRMAN OF NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE (DUNKEL) ALSO ANXIOUS FOR CHAIRMAN OF WHEAT AND COARSE GRAINS COMMITTEES TO ESTABLISH SELECT CONTACT GROUPS TO FOCUS ON NECESSARY POLITICAL DECISIONS.

3. ON FEB 27 WHEAT COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED A SUB-COMMITTEE MADE UP OF SIX EXPORTERS (US, CANADA, ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, SWEDEN AND USSR) AND SIX IMPORTERS (EC, JAPAN, EGYPT, INDIA BRAZIL AND PORTUGAL). THIS GROUP WHICH BEGINS WORK ON FEB 28 WILL BE FOCAL POINT FOR SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATION ON WHEAT. THUS FAR, EC HAS SHOWN INTENTION OF CONTINUING ITS DELAYING TACTICS BY PROLONGING DEBATE ON GENERAL ISSUES AND PREVENTING DETAILED EXAMINATION OF SPECIFICS SUCH AS PRICE INDICATOR, STOCKING MECHANISM, OR RESERVE SHARES.

4. US DELEGATION BELIEVES IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL IN ARRIVING AT A CONCLUSION IN THIS NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE IF US COULD TABLE IN NEXT 5-10 DAYS ITS SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS FOR INDICATIVE PRICE RANGE, TRIGGER POINTS, RESERVE SIZE
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AND SHARES. APPRECIATE WASHINGTON GUIDANCE, PARTICULARLY ON PRICE PROVISIONS. VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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